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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,259	12/29/2000	Victor Shao	50277-1525	4588

29989 7590 03/25/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ALAN V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2662

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/751,259

Applicant(s)

SHAO ET AL.

Examiner

Alan Nguyen

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiigi (US 6,304,898) in view of Hanson et al (US 6,457,045) hereinafter Hanson.

Regarding **claims 1 and 8** Shiigi discloses method and computer readable medium for sharing an opinion with an online community (**wireless email client server network communication system; col 3 lines 32-38; It is inherent there is some form of memory to carry out the operations of Shiigi's apparatus**), the method comprising the steps of establishing a first connection between a mobile device and a gateway using a first protocol;

where said mobile device supports said first protocol but not a second protocol (**a client computer can be a wide range of network-connectable computing devices such as digital cell phones enabled with Wireless Application Protocol WAP; col 3 lines 48-55**) ;

where said online community is associated with a server that supports said second protocol but not said first protocol (**Internet Message Access Protocol IMAP**

mail server 250 that stores email where email recipients can retrieve their email; col 6 lines 1-16);

receiving user input that indicates said opinion through user interface controls on said mobile device **(The email message is composed on the client computer and is later sent to a gateway; col3 lines 59-64) ;**

transmitting opinion data indicating said opinion, using said first protocol, from said mobile device to said gateway **(Email is a form of communication that contains both objective and subjective information. The email is sent from the user to a server computer that communicates with a gateway computer 240; col 5 lines 58-67);**

transmitting said opinion data, using said second protocol, from said gateway to said server **(the gateway sends the email messages to mail servers 250; col 5 line 67, col 6 lines 1-6);**

storing said opinion data at said server **(mail server 250 stores email where email recipients can retrieve their email; col 6 lines 1-16); and**

transmitting said data, using said second protocol, from said server to members of said online community in response to requests received by said server in said second protocol **(IMAP mail server 250 that stores email where email recipients can retrieve their email; col 6 lines 1-16).**

Shiigi, however, fails to expressly disclose the use of the email messages as part of survey results for the online community to read and reply.

Hanson discloses communication network that receives and distributes messages such as polls and surveys through the form of email among a group of participants connected to the network/server. **(An electronic form such as a “poll” in figure 11 is retrieved and completed by a participant. The participant then submits the form to a server by email. Participants that are on the distribution list in the electronic form receive an email from the server about the form can then retrieve the results; col 11 lines 50-61, col 12 lines 4-15; also see col 13 lines 12-32).**

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shiigi's apparatus to be able to allow the mobile user to conduct surveys and receive feedback, as taught by Hanson. The motivation is to broaden the utility and capability of Shiigi's wireless email apparatus, allowing mobile users to also perform interactive activities such as completing a poll of interest, voting in an election, sporting event pool, purchase authorization, and other surveys of interest to the user, as explained by Hanson on col 2 lines 64-67, and col 3, lines 1-8.

Regarding **claims 2 and 9** Shiigi discloses the steps of: receiving, through user interface controls on a second mobile device, user input that requests said survey results; transmitting a request for said survey results, using said first protocol, from said second mobile device to said gateway; transmitting a request for said survey results, using said second protocol, from said gateway to said server; in response to said request received at said server using said second protocol, transmitting said survey

results, using said second protocol, to said gateway; and sending said survey results, using said first protocol, from said gateway to said second mobile device **(The email is sent from the user to a server computer that communicates with a gateway computer 240; col 5 lines 58-67. The gateway sends the email messages to mail servers 250; col 5 line 67, col 6 lines 1-6. It is inherent that if a second mobile device were to access the message from the email server, it would have to access the gateway through the WAP interface and then the gateway would access the mail server through the IMAP interface)**

Shiigi, however, fails to expressly disclose the use of the email messages as part of survey results for the online community to read and reply.

Hanson discloses communication network that receives and distributes messages such as polls and surveys through the form of email among a group of participants connected to the network/server. **(An electronic form such as a "poll" in figure 11 is retrieved and completed by a participant. The participant then submits the form to a server by email. Participants that are on the distribution list in the electronic form receive an email from the server about the form can then retrieve the results; col 11 lines 50-61, col 12 lines 4-15; also see col 13 lines 12-32).**

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shiigi's apparatus to be able to allow the mobile user to conduct surveys and receive feedback, as taught by Hanson. The motivation is to broaden the utility and capability of Shiigi's wireless email apparatus, allowing mobile

users to also perform interactive activities such as completing a poll of interest, voting in an election, sporting event pool, purchase authorization, and other surveys of interest to the user, as explained by Hanson on col 2 lines 64-67, and col 3, lines 1-8.

Regarding **claims 3 and 10** Shiigi discloses where the first protocol is WAP **(a client computer can be a wide range of network-connectable computing devices such as digital cell phones enabled with Wireless Application Protocol WAP; col 3 lines 48-55);** and the second protocol is HTTP **(the server computer 220 includes an HTTP server interface fro connection to the Internet; col 4 lines 62-65).**

Regarding **claims 4 and 11** Shiigi discloses where the step of transmitting opinion data from said mobile device to said gateway includes transmitting said opinion data over a wireless connection **(a client computer can be a wide range of network-connectable computing devices such as digital cell phones enabled with Wireless Application Protocol WAP; col 3 lines 48-55; The email is sent from the user to a server computer that communicates with a gateway computer 240; col 5 lines 58-67);** and the step of transmitting said opinion data from said gateway to said server includes transmitting said opinion data over a network to which both said gateway and said server are connected **(the gateway sends the email messages to the IMAP mail servers 250; col 5 line 67, col 6 lines 1-6).**

Regarding **claims 5 and 12** Shiigi discloses the steps of - prior to receiving user input that indicates said opinion, said mobile device receiving from said server, through said gateway, previous opinion data that indicates an opinion previously stored on said server; where said user input is entered as a response to said previous opinion data; and said server storing an association between said previous opinion data and said opinion data **(The mail server 250 contains messages that can be indirectly retrieved by mobile devices. Messages sent from the mobile device can be a reply to an email message that was previously received by the mobile user; col 6 lines 1-12)**

Regarding **claim 6, 7, 13, and 14** Shiigi discloses where the opinion data is stored within said mobile device; and the stored opinion data is transmitted from said mobile device to said gateway in a batch with other opinion data previously entered by said a user of said mobile device, and the step of receiving user input that indicates said opinion through user interface controls on said mobile device is performed while said mobile device does not have a connection to said gateway; the opinion data is stored within said mobile device; and the stored opinion data is transmitted from said mobile device to said gateway after a connection is established between said mobile device and said gateway **(a client computer has software that allows it to store and capture previously typed messages; col 5 lines 35-57. The client computer can send multiple messages to the gateway).**

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patent is cited to show the state of the art with respect to interactive data communications through wireless dievices

US Patent (6,668,167) to McDowell et al

US Patent (6,701,366) to Kallas et al

US Patent (6,615,131) to Rennard et al

US Patent (5,564,070) to Want et al

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alan Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-0369. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm ET

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on 703-305-4798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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AVN

March 18, 2004



RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER